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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/707,865	11/07/2000	Bengt Ebbeson	30882US1	1443

116 7590 12/15/2003

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EXAMINER

ATKINSON, CHRISTOPHER MARK

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3753

DATE MAILED: 12/15/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/707,865

Applicant(s)

Ebbeson

Examiner

H. K. Johnson

Art Unit

3753

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/4/03
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5-19 and 45-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) 8-12, 15 and 17-19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 5-7, 13-14, 16 and 45-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:

- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                              | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

Art Unit: 3753

***Response to Amendment***

Applicant's arguments filed 12/4/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Claims 8-12, 15 and 17-19 remain withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 5.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Claims 1, 5-7, 13-14, 16 and 45-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Labranque in view of Eddeson and Fujitani et al. The patent of Labranque discloses all the claimed features of the invention with the exception of the bodies being profiled bodies and the pressure being below atmospheric pressure where the working fluid is water and the absorbent is zeolite.

Art Unit: 3753

The patent of Eddeson discloses that it is well known to have operate a system below atmospheric pressure and using water as the working fluid and zeolite as the absorbent for the purpose of cooling air in an cooling system. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ in Labranque to operate a system below atmospheric pressure and using water as the working fluid and zeolite as the absorbent for the purpose of cooling air in an cooling system as disclosed in Eddeson.

The document of Fujitani et al. discloses that it is known to have profiled bodies forming circular passageways for the purpose of increasing the surface absorption area which improves the heat exchange efficiency of the system. It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ in Labranque as modified, the bodies being profiled bodies and forming circular passageways for the purpose of increasing the surface absorption area which improves the heat exchange efficiency of the system as disclosed in Fujitani et al. The bodies being double T-shaped is considered to be an obvious design choice in view of which does not solve any stated problem or produce any new and/or unexpected result.

### ***Response to Arguments***

In response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show non-obviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co., Inc.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). Eddeson, not Labranque, is relied upon in the above rejection to teach using water as the working fluid and zeolite as the

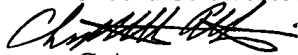
Art Unit: 3753

absorbent for the purpose of cooling air in an cooling system. Fujitani et al., not Labranque, is relied upon in the above rejection to teach that it is known to have profiled bodies forming circular passageways for the purpose of increasing the surface absorption area which improves the heat exchange efficiency of the system.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to employ in Labranque to operate a system below atmospheric pressure and using water as the working fluid and zeolite as the absorbent for the purpose of cooling air in an cooling system as disclosed in Eddeson.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Atkinson whose telephone number is (703) 308-2603.



C.A.

December 12, 2003

CHRISTOPHER ATKINSON  
PRIMARY EXAMINER